

In the Specification:

Please amend the specification to include the paragraph below to be the first paragraph of the specification:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS:

The present application claims priority to International Application Number PCT/US2004/037939 having an international filing date of November 12, 2004 which claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application Serial Number 60/519,711 having a filing date of November 13, 2003. This application claims priority to and incorporates by reference all the aforementioned applications in their entirety for all purposes.

Please amend paragraph 2 of page 2 to read the following:

The plate has a perimeter surface which tapers outwardly from the front to back.[[.]] When dispensing force is applied to the back of the piston and the plate, the tapered surface forces the piston lip outwardly into tight sliding contact with a cylindrical internal wall of a dispenser. The higher the viscosity of the material being dispensed the greater the force used to dispense the material and as a result a greater outward force is applied to the piston lip assuring that the sausage skin will not pass between the lip and the internal wall.